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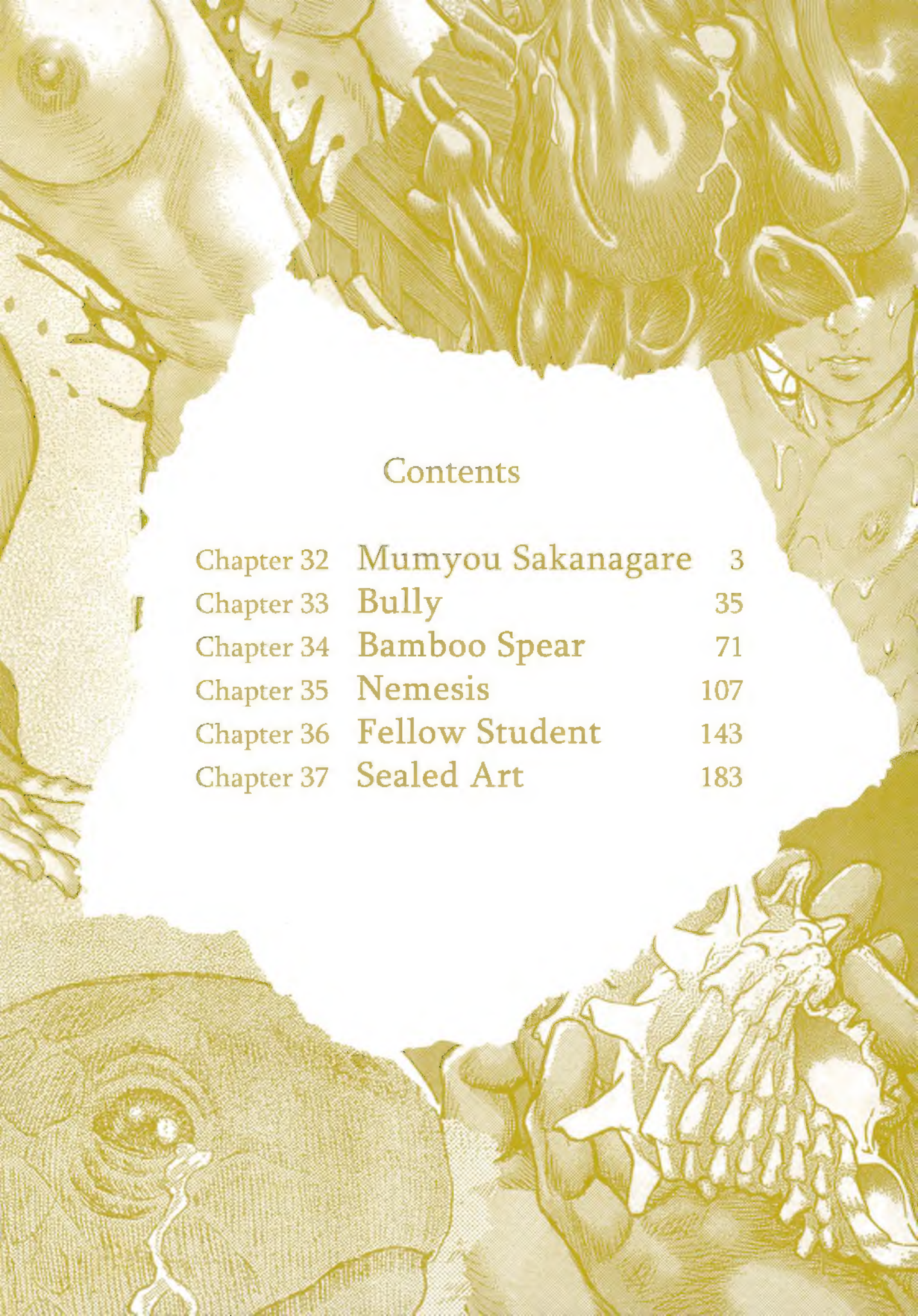

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CHAPTER 32

MUMYOU SAKANAGARE

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE ...

ARRIVED AT THE IWAMOTO ESTATE.

FOLLOW-
ING THE
SCENT OF
BLOOD.

HIS RIGHT
HAND
HOVERING
NEXT
TO HIS
SHOUTOU,

HE PRE-
PARED FOR
A CLOSE
QUARTERS
FIGHT
INDOORS,

THE HELLISH SIGHT SPREADING BEFORE GENNOSUKE'S EYES,

DID NOT EVEN SERVE TO QUICKEN HIS PULSE.

TIGER AMONG TIGERS.

HE CAUGHT SIGHT OF HIS FALLEN MASTER.

WHILE HE WAS GRASPED THE BLOOD-STAINED MIE'S WRIST TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS STILL ALIVE,

AND CHECKED HER FOR WOUNDS,

SENSEI...

WELCOME HOME.

BEHELD UPON ARRIVING AT THE ESTATE.

THE SIGHT THAT THE OFFICIAL OCCULMA KANBEE

WAS THE DAUGHTER WEARING A CRIMSON & MOMO LIKE THAT OF A PROS TITUTE

SITTING SERENELY IN A SEA OF BLOOD

THE
SAME
MONTH.

SUNPU
CASTLE.

SO, YOU ARE THE BLIND MAN,

WHO SLEW THE TIGER OF KAKEGAWA

LORD OF SURUGA, TOKUGAWA TADANAGA

SEIGEN.

YOU MAY SAY YOUR NAME.

SHIZUHATA KENGYOU

A LOWLY ONE KNOWN AS IRAKO SEIGEN.

I AM A MANSERVANT OF THE SHIZUMATA ESTATE.

I WISH TO SEE A DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR SKILLS

THE WARRIOR OF SURUGA, UZUKI SHUZABUROU,

HAD BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE KONATSU

FOR ONLY NINETEEN DAYS

ONCE UPON A TIME LORD TALANAGA COMMANDED HIS WIFE TO ATTEND TO HIM WITHIN HIS BEDCHAMBERS

HE REFUSED AND WAS LATER CAPTURED WHILE ATTEMPTING TO FLEE THE CASTLE

IT WAS A PATH HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE.

FEW EVER EMERGED UNAIDED THEIR OWN POWER

LOOSEN HIS BONDS.

THE ROPES HOLDING UZUKI SHUU-ZABUROU WERE CUT,

ONCE TADA-NAGA GAVE THE ORDER,

AND HIS SWORDS WERE RE-TURNED TO HIM

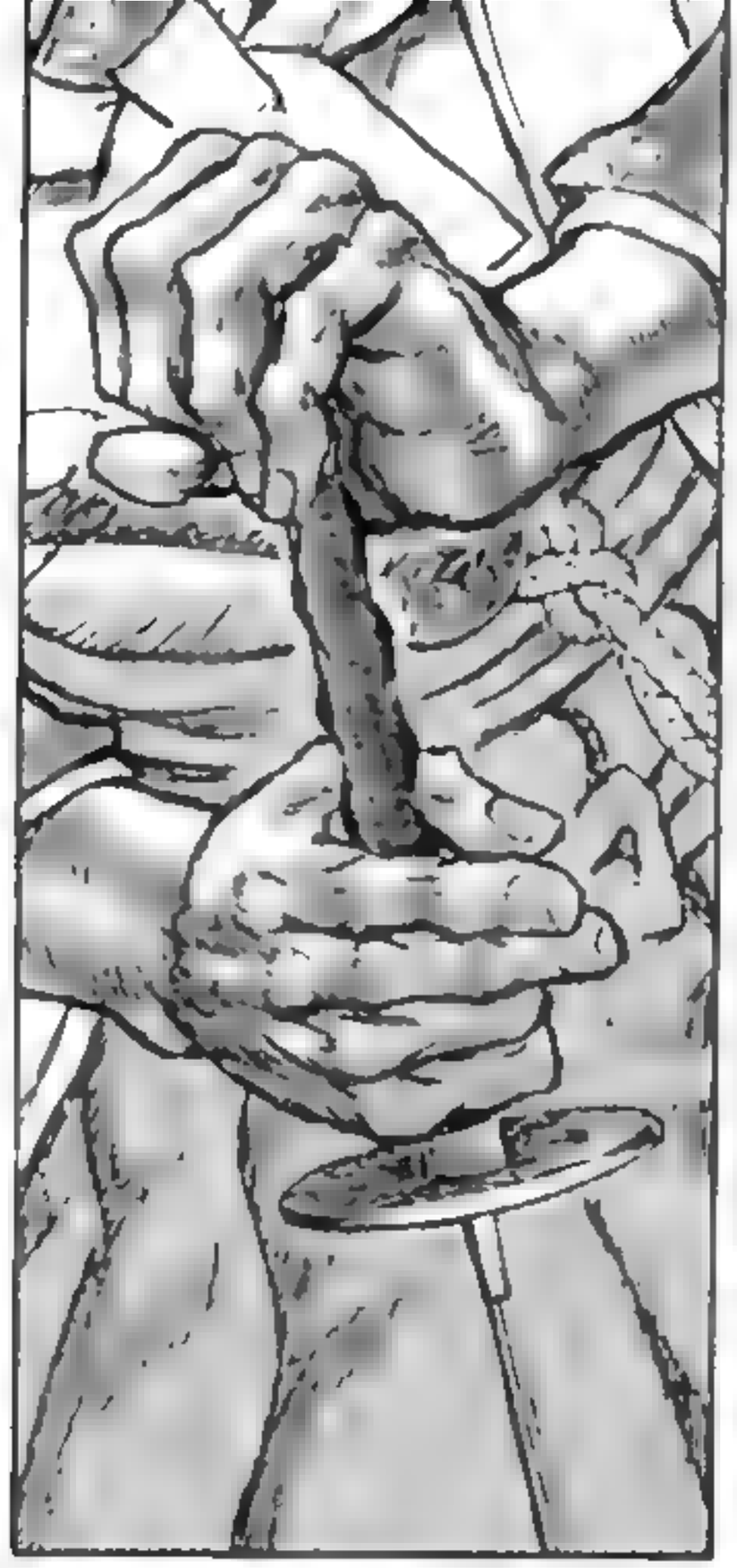
DUEL WITH THE SAMURAI STANDING BEFORE YOU.

IF YOU WIN, KONATSU WILL BE UNHARMED.

UZUKI.

I WILL BEGIN.

YOU'RE BLIND...



ALSO NO MATTER HOW HE CONSID ERED IT

UZURI SHOU- ZABUROU SUR MISED THAT THIS BLIND SAMURAI TOO

THE MAN WAS NOT IN AN ATTACK STANCE

HAD

I AM SORRY FOR YOU, BUT FOR MY WIFE...

FORGI-

HUS-
BAND!

AS SCARLET FLOWERS,

BLOOMED ON THE WHITE SAND OF THE YARD,

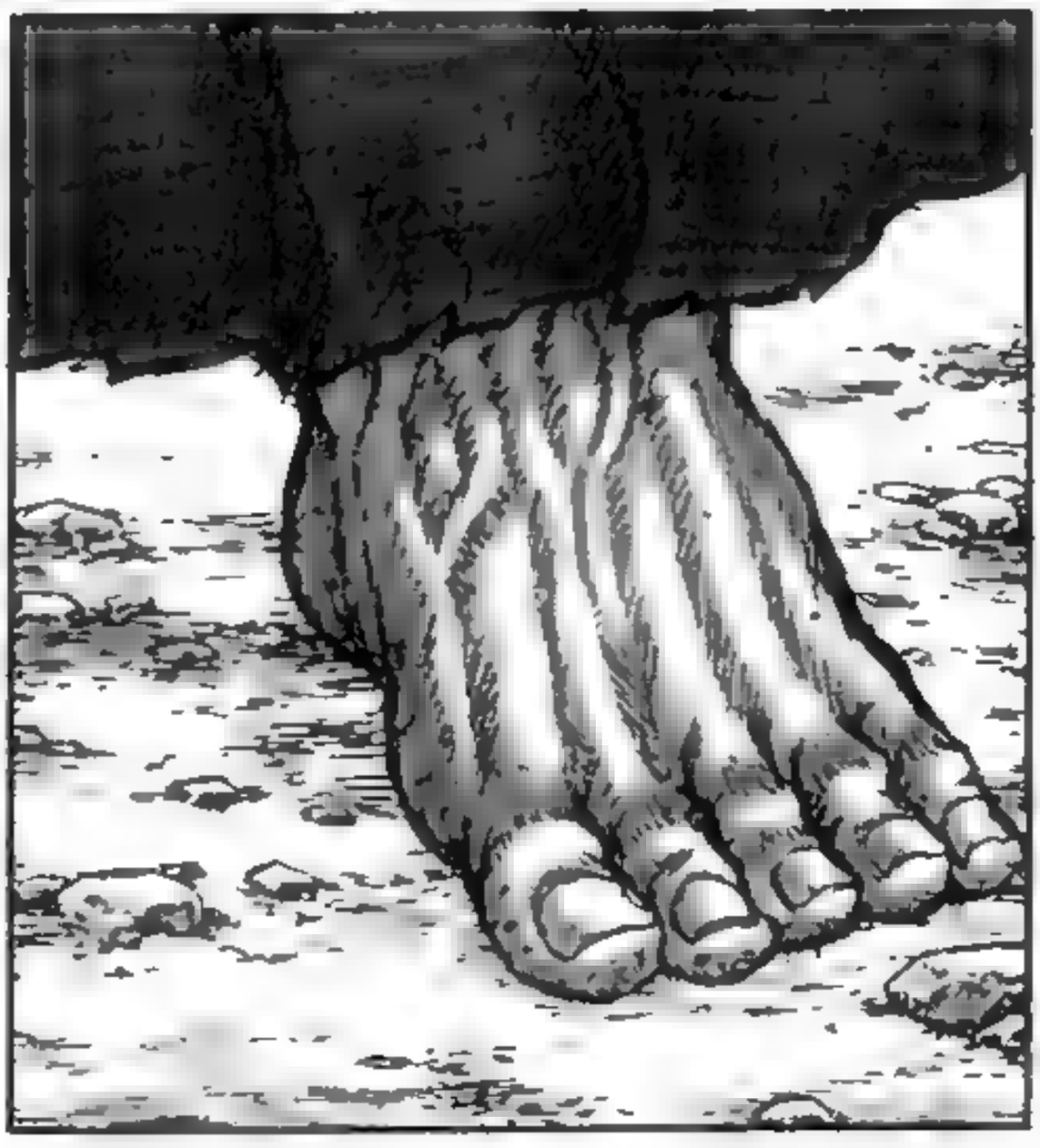
I HOPE I HAVE NOT OFFENDED YOUR EYES.

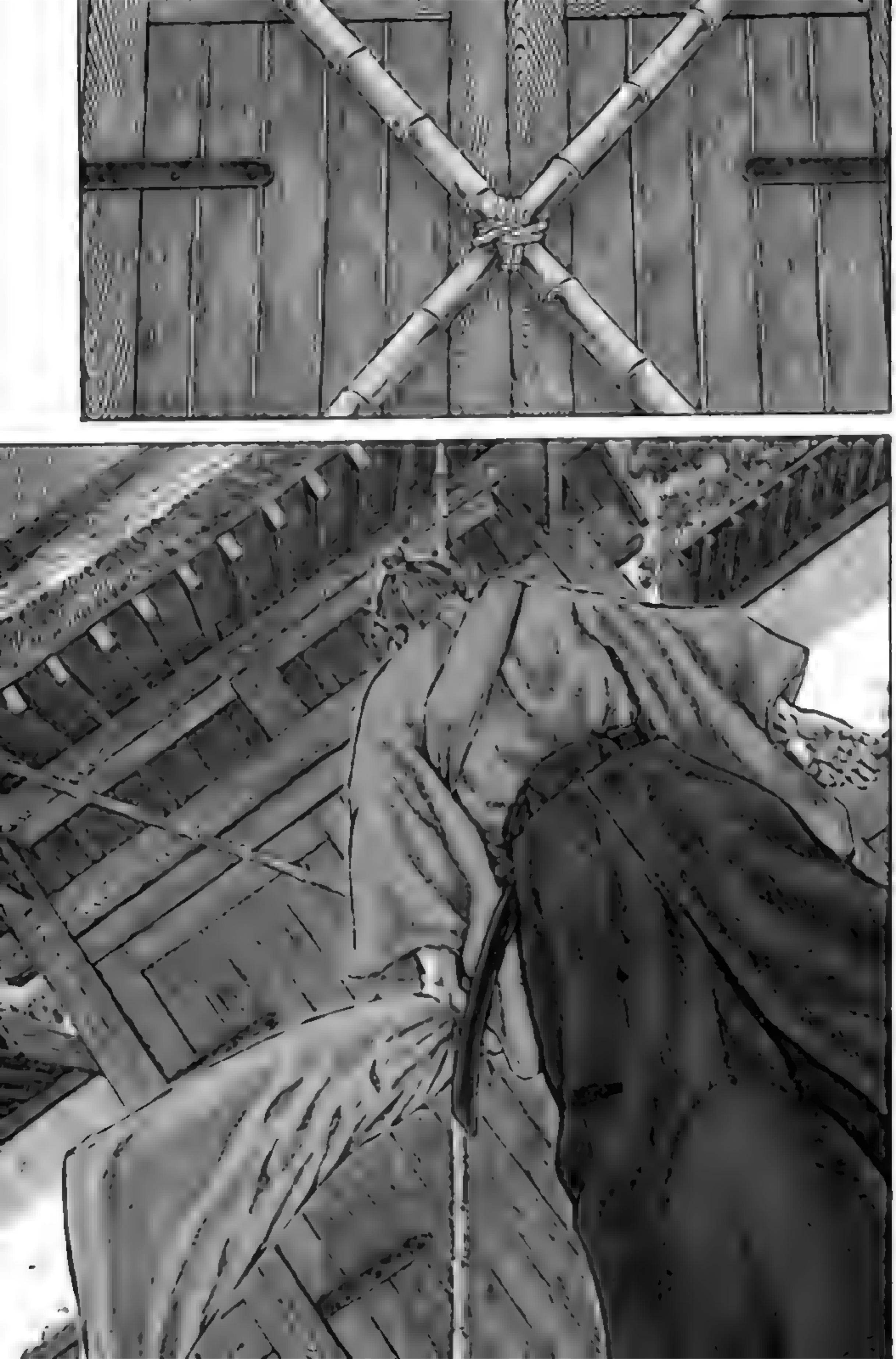
TADA-NAGA'S NOSTRILS FLARED

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR SCHOOL?

*ALIAN'OU SAKANAGAKU E.

CHAPTER 33
BULLY

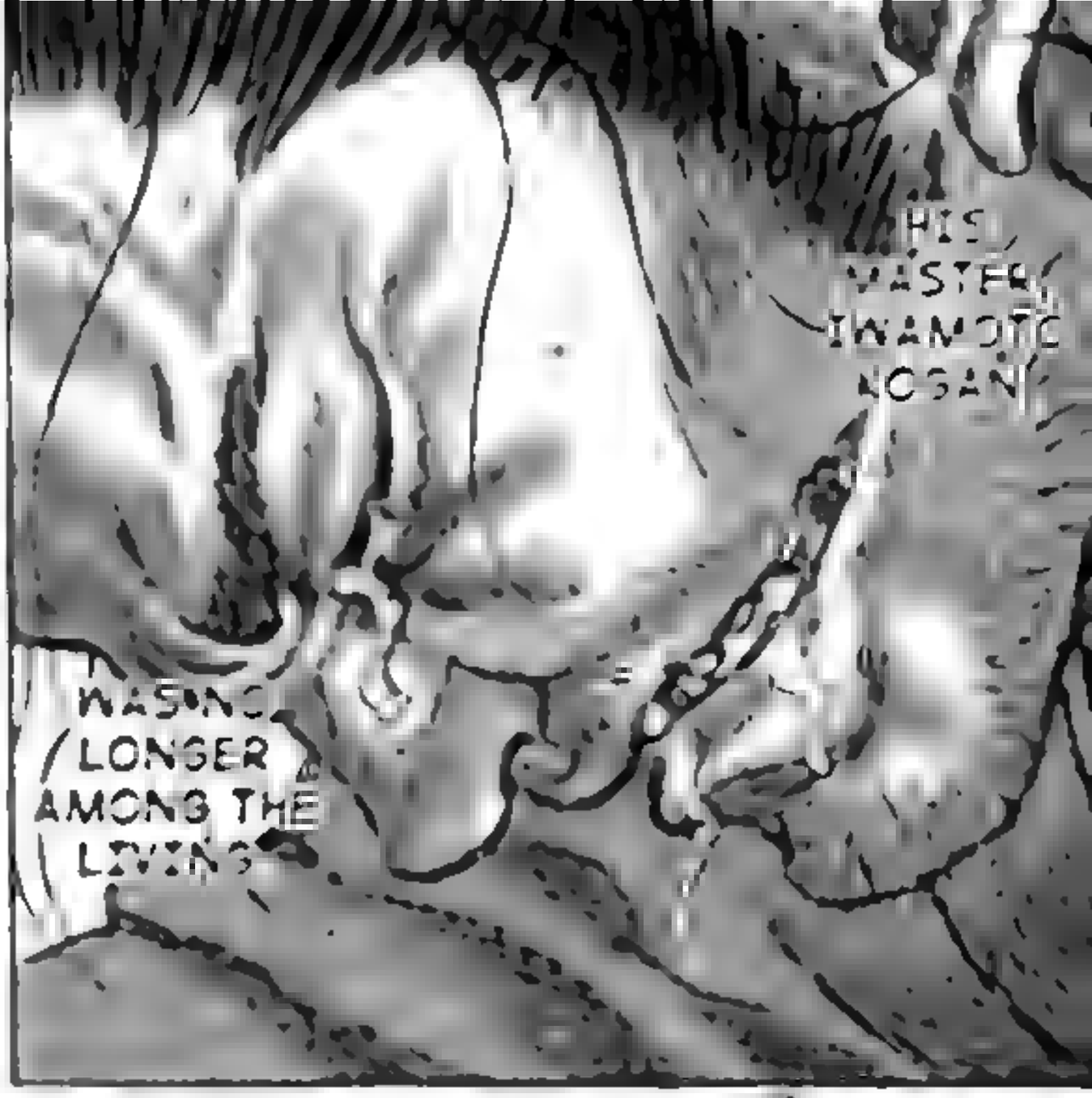




MAKING HIS RETURN TO KAKEGAWA AFTER SEVEN DAYS.

USHIMATA GONZAEMON SAW THE SEALED GATES AND REALIZED EVERYTHING.

UHGH


HIS
MASTER
IWAMOTO
NOSAN
WASN'T
LONGER
AMONG THE
LIVING

PECK MEANS LIKE THE LORD OF A BEAST [MAN THE] DEPTH OF [HIS]

IWAMOTO MIE SAT HER BEAUTY UNDIMINISHED AND ODDLY MYSTERIOUS

ON THE PORCH WHERE THE STAINS OF THE PATRIARCH'S BLOOD COULD STILL BE SEEN

AND SITTING IMPRISONED AS PUNISHMENT FOR LOSING HIS WARRIOR'S COMPOSURE IN THE FACE OF KOGAN'S DEATH.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

HE BEGAN TO SHED TEARS

THIS APPLY
SOME
YEARS
AGO.

KAKEGAWA.
VILLAGE OF
AWAMOTO.

LOWLY WRETCHES

THIS WAS THE BULLY'S FAVORITE PHRASE

THE ONE WHO THE OTHER CHILDREN OF THE VILLAGE FEARED MOST WAS FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

HIS SAMURAI FATHER, FUJIKI ULYOU-DAYUU.

HAD ONCE BEEN A HIGH RANK AND WORLD WITH A STIPEND OF ONE THOUSAND KOKU.

THOUGH HE HAD ENJOYED AN EASY LIFE.

ON LANDS THAT HIS LORD HAD SEEN FIT TO BESTOW UPON HIM HIMSELF.

THIS BULLY, LOATHED AND DISDAINED BY HIS SAMURAI PEERS.

NEVERTHELESS HE WAS STRIPPED OF HIS LANDS AND POSITION ON GROUNDS OF NEGLIGENCE AND DISLOYALTY.

REDUCED TO A STIPEND OF BUT FIFTY KOKU AND SENT TO AWAMOTO TO SERVE DILIGENTLY.

LET LOOSE HIS FRUSTRATION AND RAGE ON THE IGNORANT PEASANTS' CHILDREN.

HE FORCED TAE TO CLIMB A TREE AND PICK A PERSIMMON.

WHEN YO-ICHI WAS WALKING ALONG A PATH,

AND FROM BELOW HE JABBED HER WITH A STICK.

HE THREW DOWN A ROCK FROM ABOVE, AS LARGE AS A CHILD'S HEAD

HAD YOICHI TAKEN ONE MORE STEP, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED INSTANTLY.

BUT,

NO MATTER HOW CRUEL HIS ACTS WERE,

THE CHILDREN OF PEASANTS HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BOW TO THE CHILDREN OF SAMURAI

TOUCHING THEIR HEADS TO THE GROUND AND BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS

THIS GENNOSUKE,

NEARLY ALWAYS SILENT AND NOT GIVEN TO OVERT SHOWS OF EMOTION,

IN THE VILLAGE OF AMAMOTO WAS ANOTHER CHILD,

WHO SHARED THE NAME OF BENNOSUKE

AS THE SON OF A FARMER, HE HAD NO FAMILY NAME

WAS SEEN AS A DUMB CHILD BY HIS PARENTS,

AND WAS GIVEN WORSE FOOD THAN HIS BROTHERS

THIS GENNOSUKE BECAME THE BULLY'S IDEAL TARGET.

GENNOSUKE KNEW ENOUGH TO BOW HIS HEAD TO A SAMURAI.

THOUGH HE WAS THOUGHT TO BE STUPID BY MANY.

HIS EXPRESSION HELD NO HINT OF ADULATION.

HOWEVER, UNLIKE THE OTHER VILLAGE CHILDREN,

THIS INFURIATED THE BULLY.

ON THAT DAY, THE BULLY GENNOSUKE FILLED THE OTHER GENNOSUKE'S MOUTH WITH HORSE DROPPINGS,

AND USED JUDO TO STRANGLE HIM OVER TWENTY TIMES.

SOME TIME LATER WHEN THE FARMER'S SON BECAME UNABLE TO MOVE,

THE BULLY HASTILY RAN AWAY, LEAVING THE BOY WHERE HE LAY.

WHEN GENNOSUKE CAME TO HIS SENSES,

THE FULL MOON HUNG BRILLIANTLY IN THE NIGHT SKY.

HE PICKED UP ALL THE GREENS THAT HAD BEEN SCATTERED ON THE GROUND AND PUT THEM BACK IN THE BASKET.

AFTER ALL, THIS WAS WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF HIM.

THE ROAD HOME BECAME ENVELOPED IN A THICK MIST

THE VISION OF THE TIGER FORCED HIM TO STRAY FROM HIS PATH

HIS DESTINATION WAS

HIS HEAD HAVING COLLIDED WITH A STONE WALL

HAD SEEN A BOY SWINGING SOMETHING LIKE A LARGE SACK THROUGH THE AIR.

THOUGH ON THAT DAY A STUDENT NAMED SANJI.

IT WAS ONLY LATER THAT HE REALIZED THAT IT HAD BEEN ANOTHER HUMAN BEING

HIS MOTHER, MUGI, LET OUT A PIERCING SHRIEK

AAAAH...

FOR WHAT HER DUMB SON HAD BROUGHT BACK,

WAS A CHILD'S SCALP,

AND A SAMURAI'S TOPKNOT ATTACHED TO IT

WHEN THE BOY DID NOT REPLY TO ANY QUESTIONS,

HIS FATHER, MABOBHE HUNG HIM UPSIDE DOWN FROM A TREE

THIS WAS ISOLELY AN ATTEMPT TO APPEASE THE WRATH A SAVAGE RAT WOULD VISIT UPON THE ONE WHO HAD TAKEN HIS SON'S TOPKNOT AND EREVENT THAT ANGER FROM AFFECTING THE CULPRIT'S FAMILY WAS INFL

AT THAT MOMENT, A MAN WHO LOOKED TO BE A SAMURAI OF THE CASTLE APPROACHED

IN A FEW MINUTES THE BOY'S VEINS WOULD BURST, KILLING HIM.

AAH!

AH...

SO THIS IS THE CHILD WHO CHASTISED FUJIKI UKYOU-DAYUU'S SON.

THIS CHILD

IF YOU HAVE NO NEED OF HIM, I SHALL TAKE HIM INSTEAD

THE SWORDSMANSHIP INSTRUCTOR OF KAKEGAWA, IWAMOTO KOGAN, DECREED THAT THE BULLY GENNOSUKE'S DEATH HAD BEEN AN ACCIDENT, AND GAVE MONEY TO THE NOW HEIRLESS FUJIKI CLAN, MAKING THEM ADOPT A NEW SUCCESSOR.

THIS BOY WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE SILENT CHILD, GENNOSUKE.

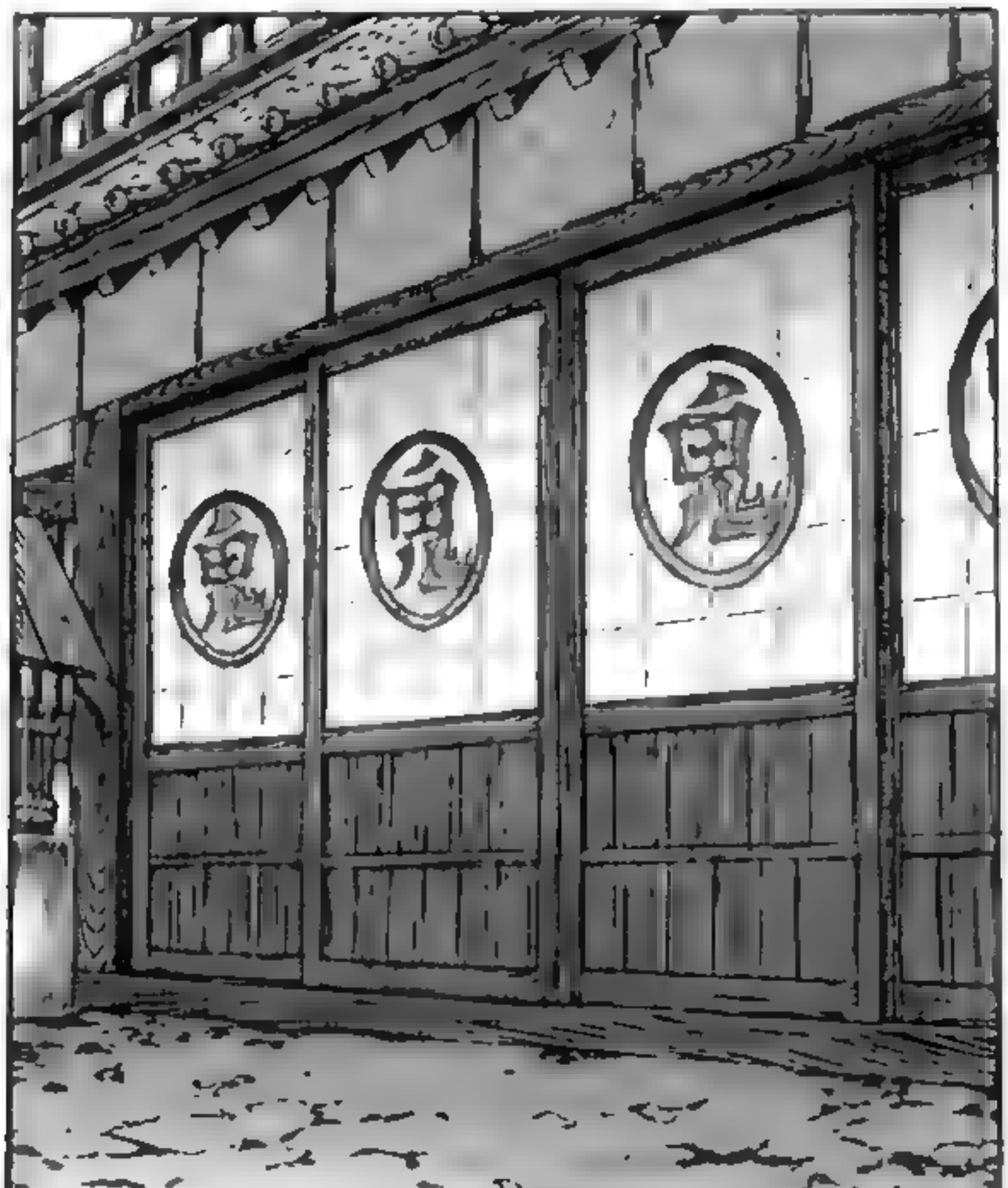
AFTERWARDS, KOGAN TOOK THE BOY INTO HIS OWN ESTATE.

GENNOSUKE
THE THIRD SON
OF A HUECO PEASANT
CHOSEN BY GOD
AS AN ASTRA SAMURAI

KOGAN-
SENSEI...

CHAPTER 34
BAMBOO SPEAR

NISSAKA.



THOUGH TECHNICALLY FORBIDDEN BY LAW, DISTRICTS WITH MANY TAVERNS WERE NATURALLY ALSO CROWDED WITH GAMBLERS AND PROSTITUTES,

AND AS A MATTER OF COURSE THERE EXISTED ORGANIZATIONS WHICH RULED OVER THOSE UNSAVORY PEOPLE

KUCHINAWA MEISHIROU, A MAN WHO WORKED AS SECURITY FOR THE KUKI CLAN.

WAS AN EXTREMELY SKILLED PRACTITIONER OF IPPARYUU

NOT ONLY WAS HE STRONG BUT HE WAS ALSO SO COLD BLOODED THAT EVEN OTHER WARRIORS SPOKE OF HIM IN HUSHED WHISPERS. FOR WHEN HE TOOK PART IN AN ATTACK ON THE RIVAL HYAKUME CLAN, HE CASUALLY STRUCK DOWN EVEN THE CHILDREN WHO ATTEMPTED TO PROTECT THEIR LEADER, HYAKUME DAIZOU.

I WAS MOST SURPRISED, SIR.

THAT THE ONE WE ALL LAUDED AS UNRIVALED.

THE MASTER IWAMOTO KOGAN-SAMA MET SUCH A FATE

TO THINK

THE MASS-ESS'S VOICE WAS FULL OF PRIDE.

I EVEN HEAR THAT HIS OPPONENT WAS A BLIND MAN.

AS THOUGH IT WAS HE WHO HAD SLAIN THE TIGER

IF YOU WISH TO SAY THAT KOGAN-RYUU HAS TRULY BEEN DEFEATED

YOU MUST FIRST FELL FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

EVEN IWAMOTO KOGAN-DONO HAD TO GROW OLD

THAT IS ALL.

FUJIKI?

SURELY A MAN LIKE THAT

I HAVE HEARD THAT THAT DISCIPLE

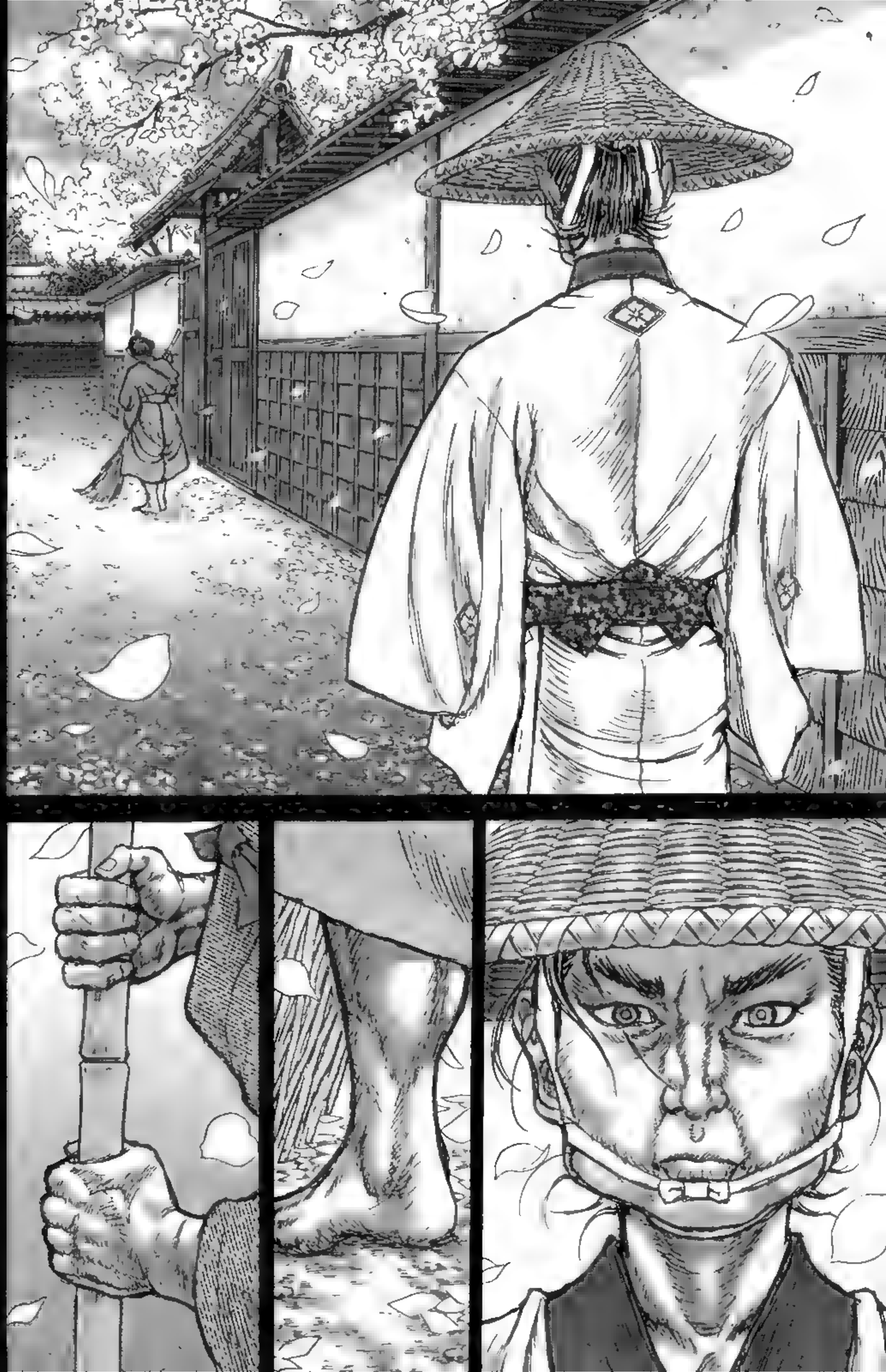
WAS MISSING SOMEWHERE ELSE WHEN HIS MASTER WAS IN MORTAL PERIL

GAAACK!

WHAT WOULD A SNIV-ELLING WRETCH LIKE YOU..

KNOW OF FUJIKI GENNOSUKE?!

KUCHINAWA HEISHIRO HAD MET GENNOSUKE ONE APRIL, WHEN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WERE HEAVY ON THE TREES.



流指南

I HAVE COME TO RECEIVE A LESSON.

IT WAS A MUCH YOUNGER KUCHINAWA.

WELL, I...

HE ARROGANTLY BELIEVED THAT THE MAN WAS IN FEAR OF HIS SKILLS AS A DISCIPLE OF IPPARYUU.

THE HUGE MAN WHO GREETED HIM ONLY SCRATCHED HIS HEAD, AS THOUGH NERVOUS.

HE BELIEVED THAT THE TITLE OF NOUBI'S UNRIVALED WAS MERELY A RUMOR

HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD SOON HAND HIM A PITTANCE AND SEND HIM ON HIS WAY.

THE DISCIPLES WHO SAT TO THE SIDES,

ALL SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY WERE FROM PEASANT BLOOD

IT WAS FUJIKI GENNOSUKE, NOT EVEN THREE YEARS A STUDENT OF KOGAN-RYUU.

I WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

KUCHI-NAWA WAS NOT SO KIND A MAN,

AS TO GO EASY ON HIS OPPONENT JUST BECAUSE HE WAS A BOY

NOW, I'LL-

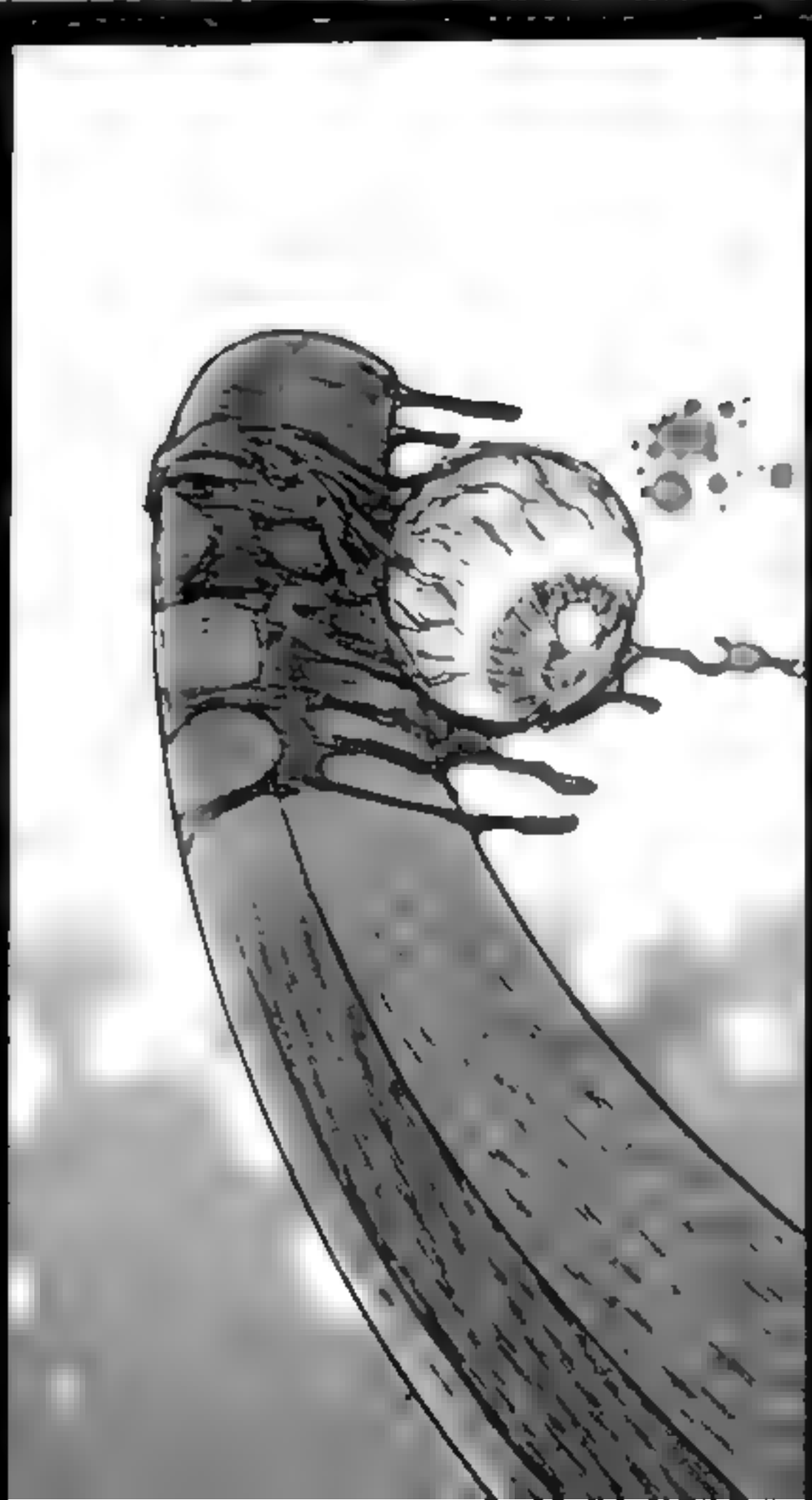
I I FORGET ...

YOUR EAR, OR YOUR NOSE.

AARGH...

FINISH HIM, GENNOSUKE!

STRIKE SURELY!



IT WAS GENNO-SUKE'S FIRST MATCH

HEISHIROU HATCHED A PLAN TO GET HIS REVENGE

TOGETHER WITH TWO OTHERS WHO HAD SUFFERED SIMILARLY AT THE HANDS OF KOGAN RYUU

ドドオオオ

DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO DRAW YOUR SWORD, KOGAN-RYUU?!

CAN YOU?!

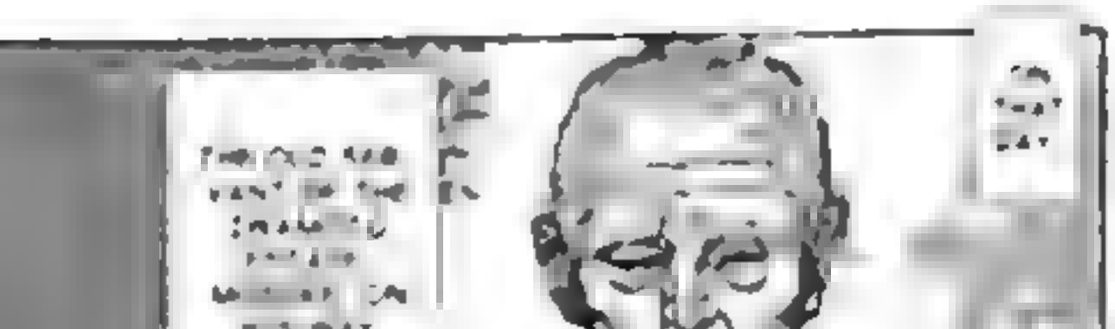
THE MOMENT YOU DRAW STEEL THE GOD OF LIGHTNING WILL STRIKE YOU DOWN!

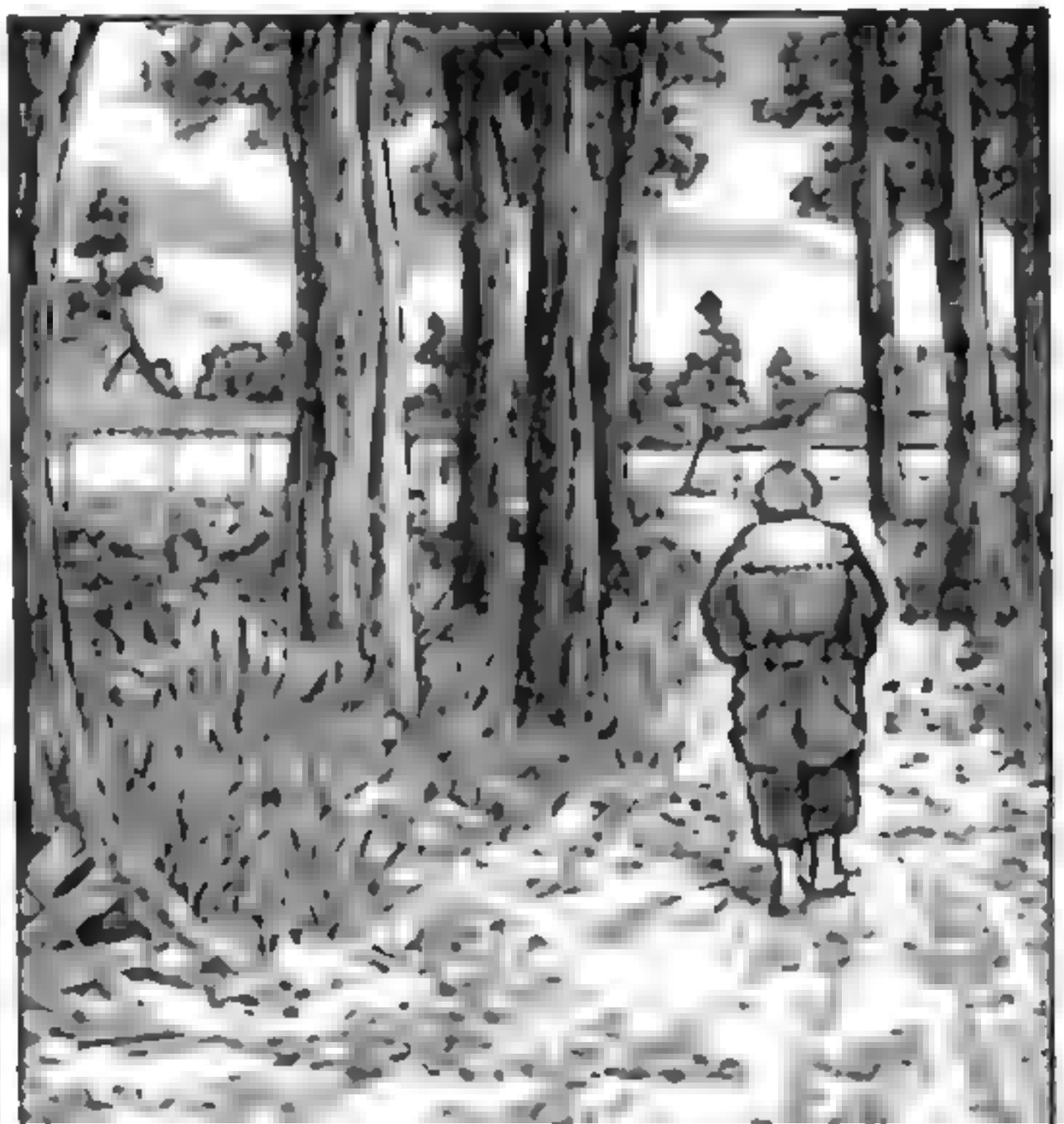
IN AN INSTANT...

THE BOLT OF LIGHTNING BURNED TWO MEN TO A CRISP.

BEHELD IN THAT SOUNDLESS WORLD

KAKEGAWA.





ARE YOU A SERVANT OF THE IWAMOTO CLAN?

GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO FUJIKI GENNOSUKE.

YOU WILL BE PROTECTED.

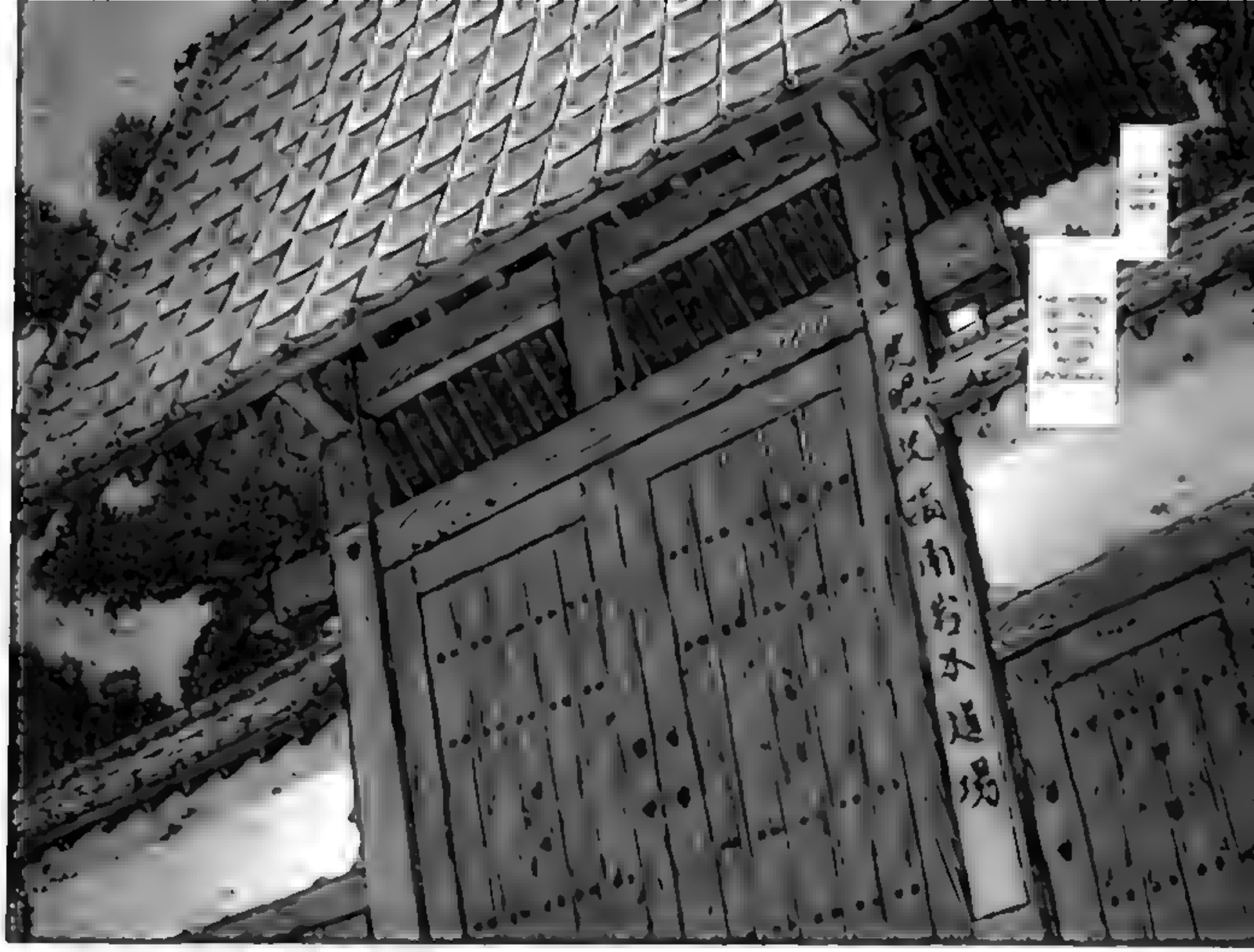
BY THE DRAGON OF YOUKOUIN.

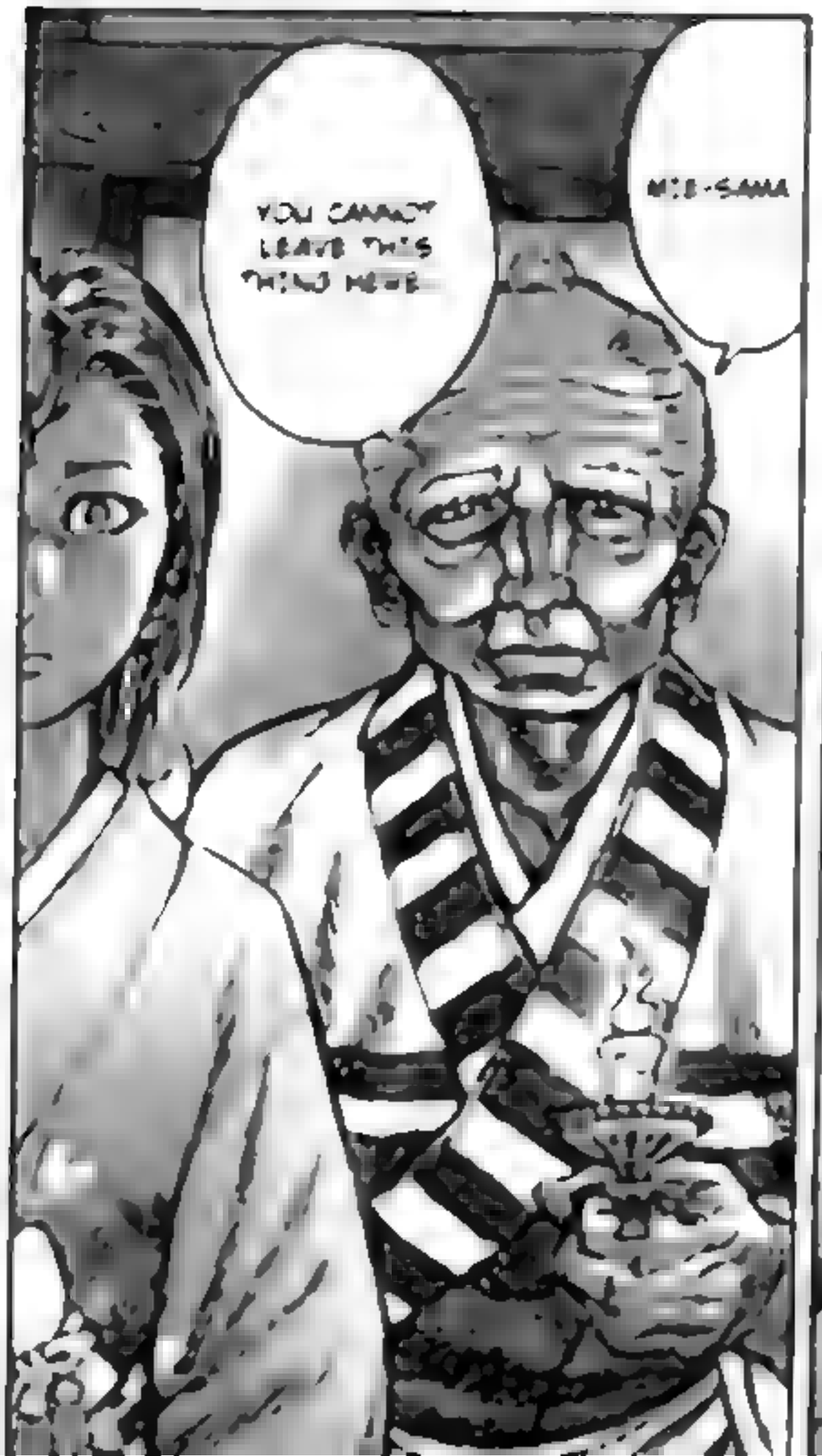
ALSO TELL HIM HE NEEDN'T BE TOO NERVOUS.

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN HE WILL AVENGE HIS FALLEN MASTER.

PETITION
FOR
VENGEANCE

CHAPTER 35
NEMESIS


温泉旅館

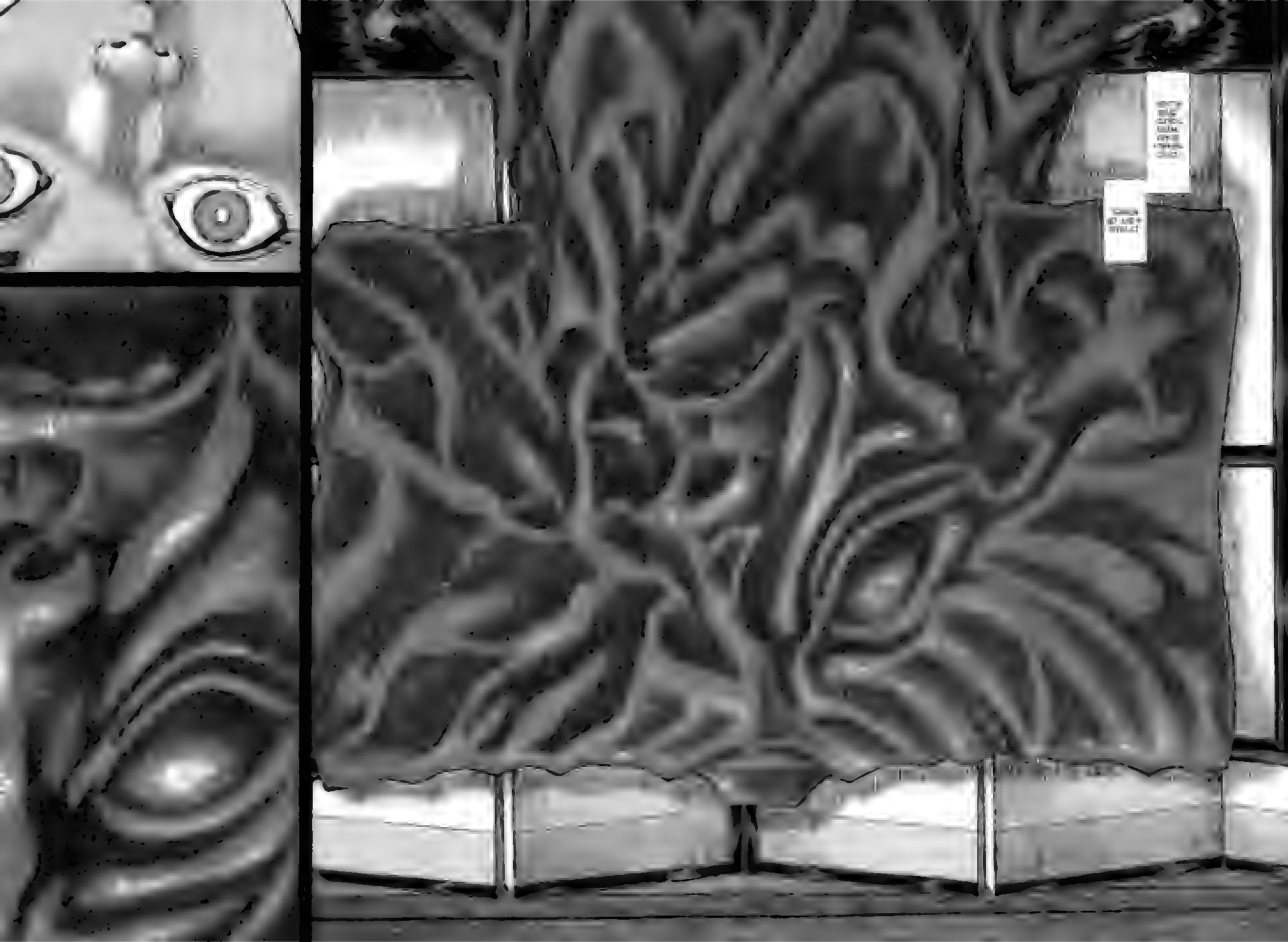

YOU CANNOT LEAVE THIS THING HERE
MIE-SAMA

NO. NOBODY

NOBODY CAN TAKE THIS AWAY

THIS IS MY FATHER'S LAMENT EXECUTED

LOOK CLOSELY. AND YOU CAN SEE HIM


CHEMICAL
PLANT
CHEMICAL
PLANT

HE DREW HIS BLADE IN RESPONSE TO THE TAUNTING OF IRAKO SEIGEN, A MANSERVANT OF THE SHIZUHATA ESTATE, AND EVENTS PROCEEDED AS YOU ALREADY KNOW.

MY DEPARTED FATHER KOGAN WAS OF A CLEAR MIND UNTIL HIS VERY LAST MOMENT.

I BEG YOU, PLEASE, GRANT ME THIS WISH.

I SEND THIS LETTER IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PERMISSION TO KILL IRAKO SEIGEN, THE MAN WHO MURDERED MY FATHER.

IWAMOTO MIE

GENNOSUKE...

YANAGISAWA TANOMO

I CANNOT GRANT YOU,

THIS REQUEST.

HOWEVER, I RECEIVED A DOCUMENT FROM KOGAN LONG AGO,

A PETITION FOR VENGEANCE CAN ONLY BE SUBMITTED IF THE PATRIARCH AND THE IMMEDIATE HEIR ARE DEAD.

TELLING ME THAT THE HEIR TO THE CLAN OF IWAMOTO WOULD BE NONE OTHER THAN YOU, FUJIKI GENNOSUKE!

IF I MAY SPEAK.

THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT DO TO LEAVE A STAIN ON THE REPUTATION OF OUR SCHOOL'S MARTIAL PROWESS

KOGAN-RYUU IS A CLAN WHICH EARNS ITS STIPEND WITH THE BLADE

DO YOU THINK WE WILL LEAVE THE POSITION OF BLADEMASTER IWAMOTO, A MAN WHO EARNED THREE HUNDRED KOKU, TO YOU?

YOU SPEAK OUT OF PLACE, GENNOSUKE.

SAITAUNO TINNAI THE MAN WHO WAS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO BECOME THE NEXT MARTIAL ARTS MASTER OF KALEGANA

AT THAT TIME, SMILING BEHIND THE BOWING GENNOSUKE

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED.

DID THIS NOT COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF YOUR SHORTCOMING, IN THE FIRST PLACE?!

WAS IT NOT YOU,

WHO FLOUNDERED HELPLESSLY WHEN CONFRONTED WITH KOGAN'S CORPSE, LOSING CONTROL OF YOURSELF!

WHERE WERE YOU,

ON THE DAY THAT KOGAN DIED?

YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN LONG DEAD, HANGING FROM A PINE TREE IN ANAMOTO!

IF KOGAN HAD NOT SAVED YOU.

WENT FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF DECENCY

THE SCORN AND INSULTS THESE OLD MEN HEAPED UPON THE SILENT, LOW-RANKING WARRIOR,

UNTIL HE HEARD THOSE WORDS...

BUT STILL BENNOSUKE DID NOT UTTER A WORD OF PROTEST

HE THOUGHT THAT MOST OF WHAT THEY WERE SAYING WAS TRUE

IT IS MOST PERPLEXING.

I PITY KOGAN. EVEN WITH SUCH LAUDABLE SKILLS,

IT SEEMS THAT HE WAS UNLUCKY WHEN IT CAME TO CHOOSING HIS DISCIPLES.

WAS TRULY THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN IN THIS CASTLE...

I MUST QUESTION WHETHER IWAMOTO-SAMA, HAVING FALLEN TO THE BLADE OF A BLIND MAN,

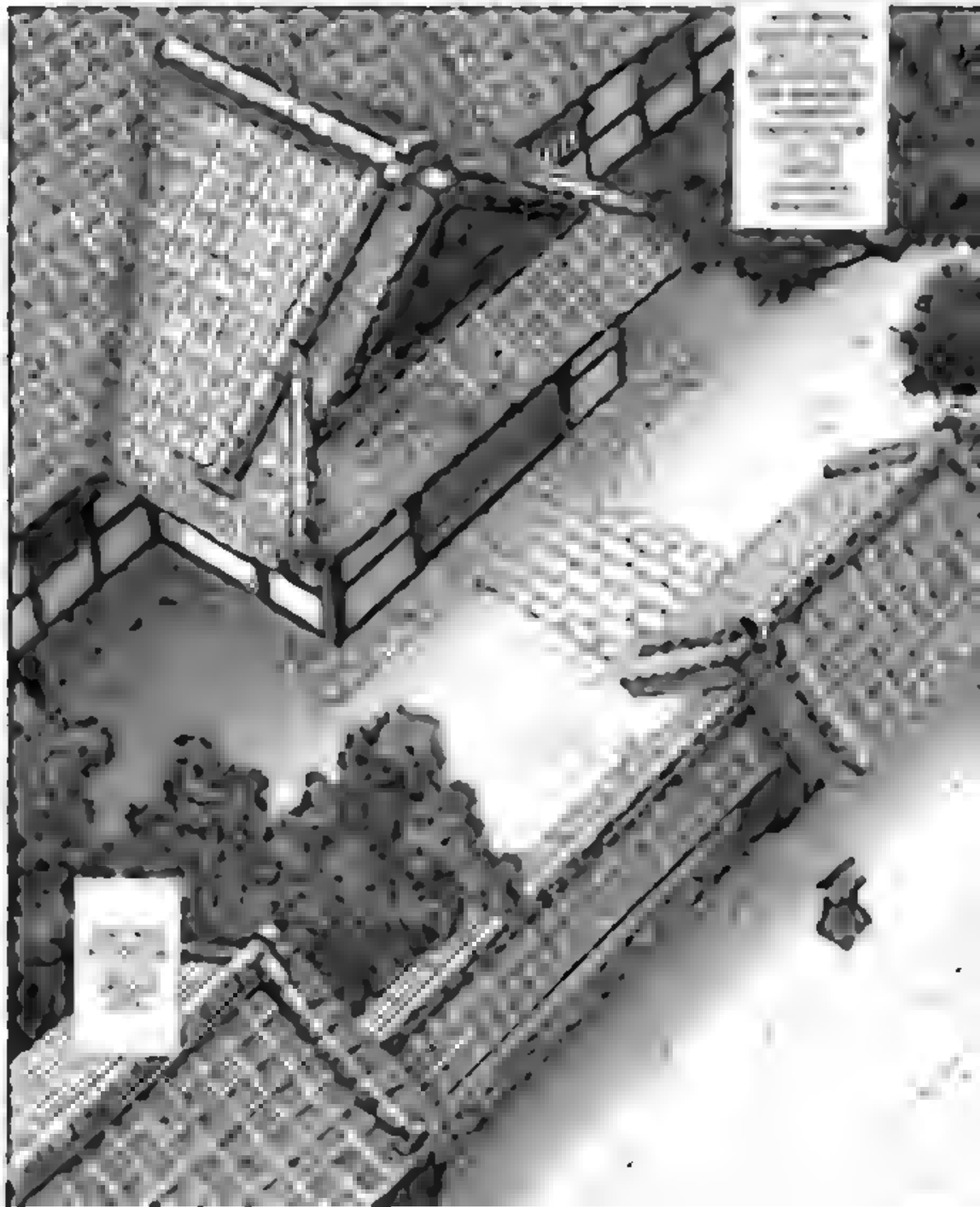
C

IKUNO!

THE RAIDS OF KAI-GAWA HARAMITSHI BIZENNOKAMI

IT SEEMS THE BLADE OF KOGAN-RYUU HAS YET TO RUST...

SAID THIS UPON HEARING OF THE EVENTS THAT HAD COME TO PASS



EVEN THE MAJORITY SERVANTS IN AN ESTATE

COULD NEVER EVEN THINK OF HELPING A YOUNG MAN BATHE HIMSELF

AT THE TIME THE WOMEN IN A MARRIAGE CAN

WERE NEVER ALLOWED TO BE ALONE WITH A MAN

BUT

BEFORE SEIGENS OBSIDIAN EYES HAD CAPTIVATED MANY A WOMAN.

BUT THOSE EYES WERE SO VOLUPTUOUS AS TO INSPIRE A SORT OF UNEASINESS, AS WELL.

BUT NOW, SEIGENS BLINDED RAGE, WITHOUT THOSE TWO EYES, REVEALED AN UNIMAGINABLY DEEP ABYSS.

EXERTING AN IRRESISTIBLE PULL UPON ANY WHO LOOKED INTO IT.

AND THEY LICK THOSE FINGERS.

WHY?

WITH A CLEAN DEAD FUTURE GENOCIDE IS RELENTLESS!
I STAND AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO

I LACK WORDS CAPABLE TO

WHEN?

WHEN WAS I BORN??

[illegible] DID I FA... BEHIND HIM IN MARTIA SA...

I TWISTED AND BROKE HIS FINGERS!

STOLE AWAY IWAMOTO MIE!

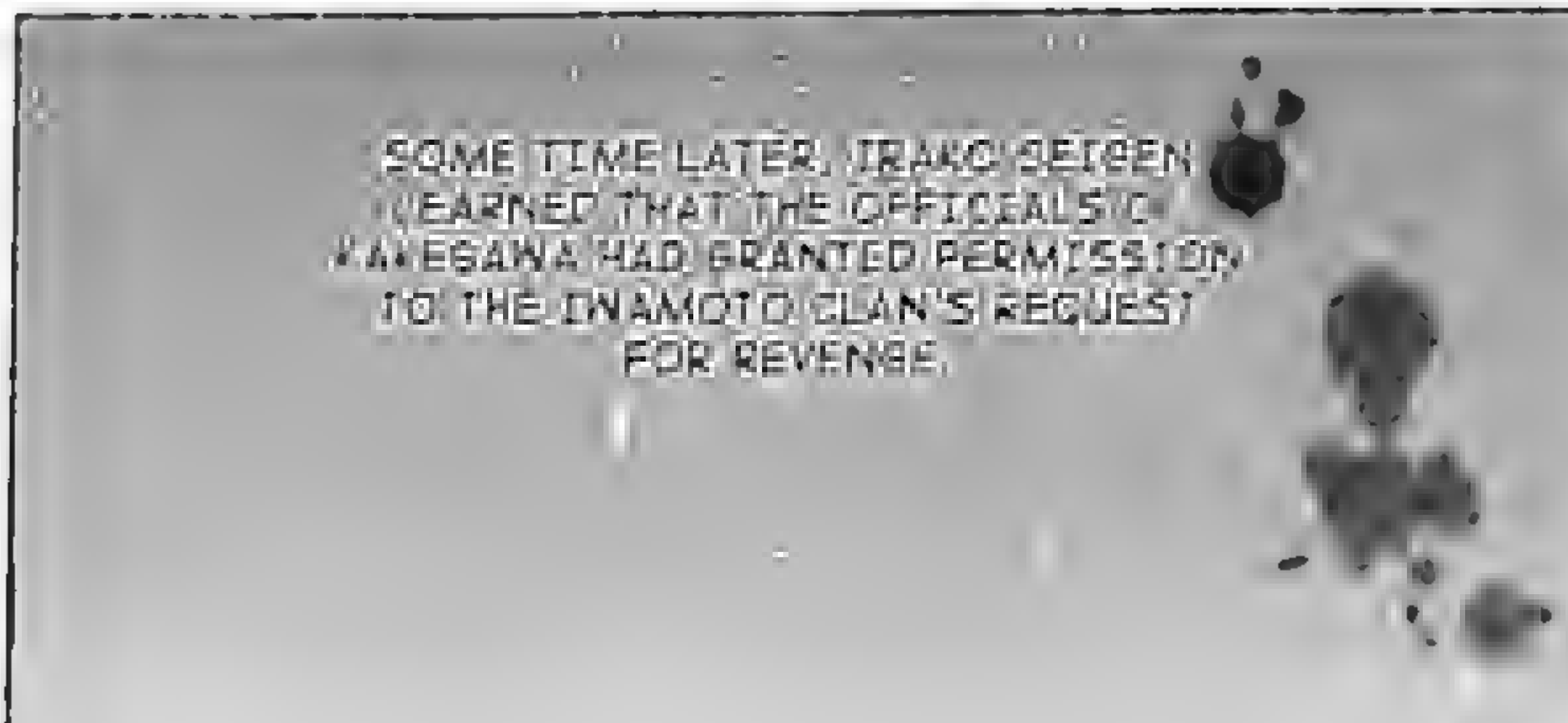
AT THAT MOMENT, A CERTAIN MEMORY FLASHED BACK INTO SEIGEN'S BRAIN!!

IN AN INSTANT, SEIGEN'S FLESH BECAME AS HARD AS STEEL

MITSUKO FELT SOMETHING SEARINGLY HOT MAKE ITS WAY FROM HER GROIN TO THE TIP OF HER HEAD AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS

I MUST STOP THIS!

PLEASE GRANDSON!


SOME TIME LATER, IRAKO SEIGEN LEARNED THAT THE OFFICIALS OF WANEGAWA HAD GRANTED PERMISSION TO THE INAMOTO CLAN'S REQUEST FOR REVENGE.

CHAPTER 36

FELLOW STUDENT

ON THAT DAY

HAD HEALED FULLY

FUKUROI

WATERS OF ENSHUU

IN THE BOAT,

WEARING A SET OF THE BARBARIANS' IRON ARMOR AS WELL AS A RUSTED HELMET.

SAT FUJIKI GENNOSUKE

THIS PLACE SHOULD SUFFICE.

AND IT WAS ONE OF THE EARLY TESTS THE TEEN'S DISCIPLE UNDERWENT

THE PURPOSE OF THIS TRAINING WAS TO HELP THE TRAINEE

phi

HE'S TOO LATE!

WHAT...

WE COULD NOT REACH HIM!

WHERE IS GENNOSUKE?

GENNO-SUKE?

YOU HAVE DONE WELL IRAKO.

THOUGH ANY ONE OF THESE MEN COULD HAVE USED HIS TERRIFYING POWER TO BIND THE KNOTS.

GENNOSUKE WAS NOT A MAN TO WHOM SUCH SUSPICIONS CAME EASILY

I AM GLAD

FOR WE ARE GATHERED HERE TOGETHER

FELLOW STUDENTS, SPARRING AND TRAINING IN THE WAYS OF THE SWORD AS ONE.

THEIR RATTLED
[illegible] INTO THE
DEEP [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[

A DRUNK OLD MAN NAMED NOZA WHO LIVED IN THE SLUMS, WAS WALKING DOWN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD

YOZA HAD BRUSHED AGAINST THE MAN'S SHOULDERS

HE WAS KILLED FOR SHOWING DISRESPECT TO A HIGH RANKING WARRIOR!

SHOULD THEY DISPLEASE A HIGH RANKING SAMURAI, THEIR LIVES WOULD BE FORFEIT

YAMAZAKI KUROUEMON AND MARUKO HIKOBEE WERE *ASHIGARU

THESE MEN, TOO WOULD NEVER TASTE PURE WHITE RICE

OKITSU SANJUUROU AND USHIMATA GONZAEMON WERE †GOUSHI

JUST LIKE IRAKO SEIGEN.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE HAD NOT ONCE MENTIONED HIS PAST

FUJIKI.

EVEN THE GREAT SHOGUN IEYASU, LAUDED AS A GOD NOW EVEN BY OTHER SAMURAI,

WAS BORN THE SON OF A POOR WOMAN AND A WANDERING MONK.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

I HEARD IT IN THE MUSEUM! PEOPLE SOMEHOW IN HERE

CAN WORK OUR WAY UP WITH OUR MARTIAL SKILLS.

CLIMBING ABOVE OTHERS AND GRASPING THE HEAVENS IN OUR HANDS!

IRAKO.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE WORDS "WE" HAD EVER PASSED SEIGEN'S LIPS.

FUJIKI GENNOSUKE WAS BORN SAMURAI.

A SAMURAI IS LIKE THIS SHELL.

THE ONLY ROAD FOR A MAN BORN TO THE HOUSE OF SAMURAI.

IS PRO-TECTING THAT HOUSE.

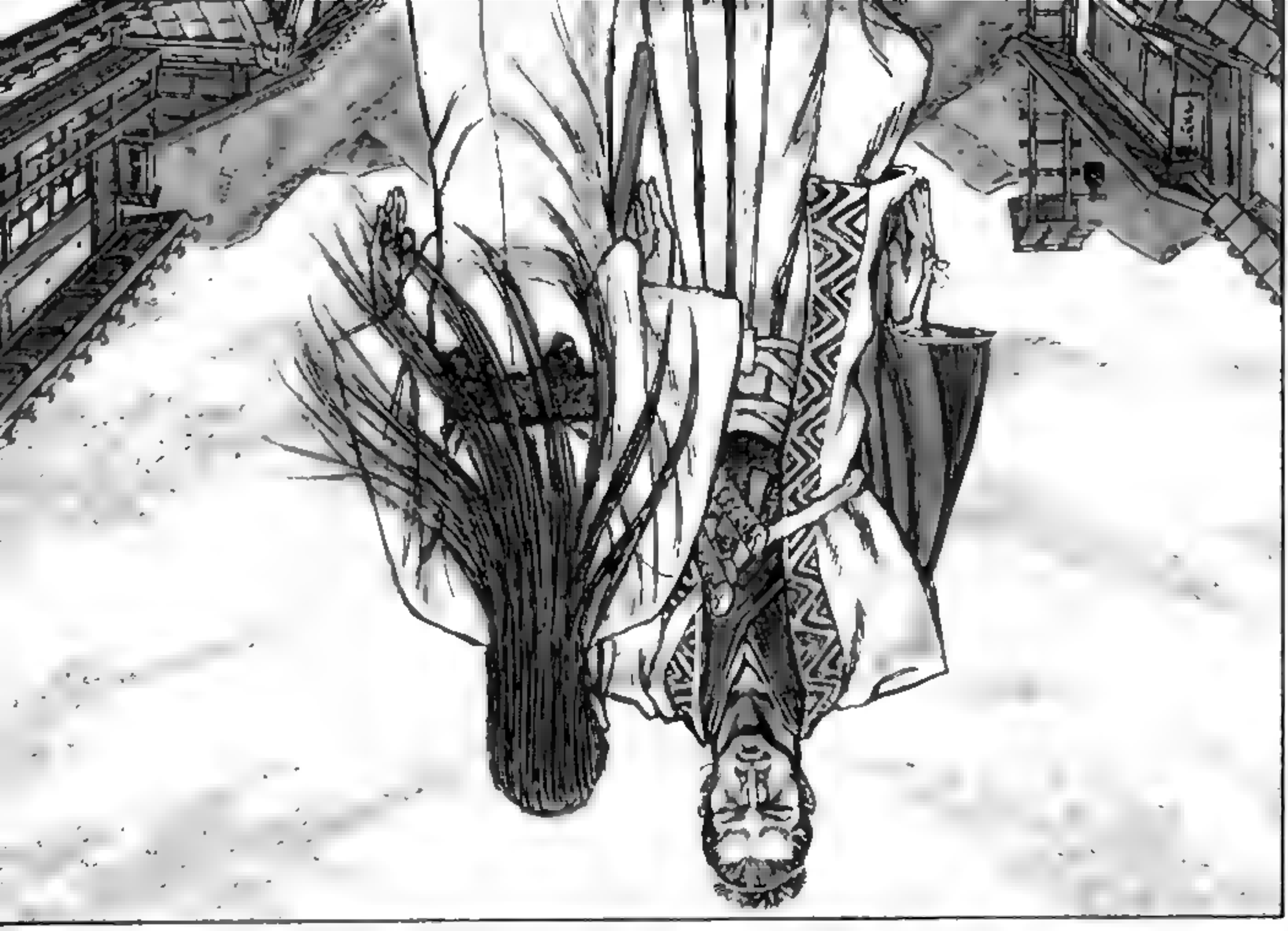
THAT IS ALL.

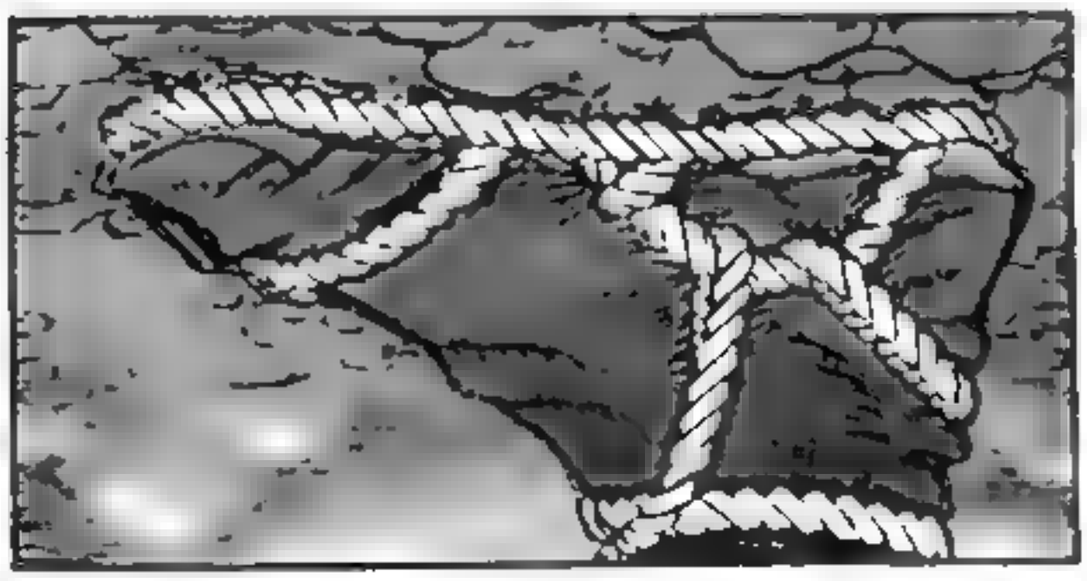
THE SHAME,
ONCE SEALED
DEEP WITHIN,

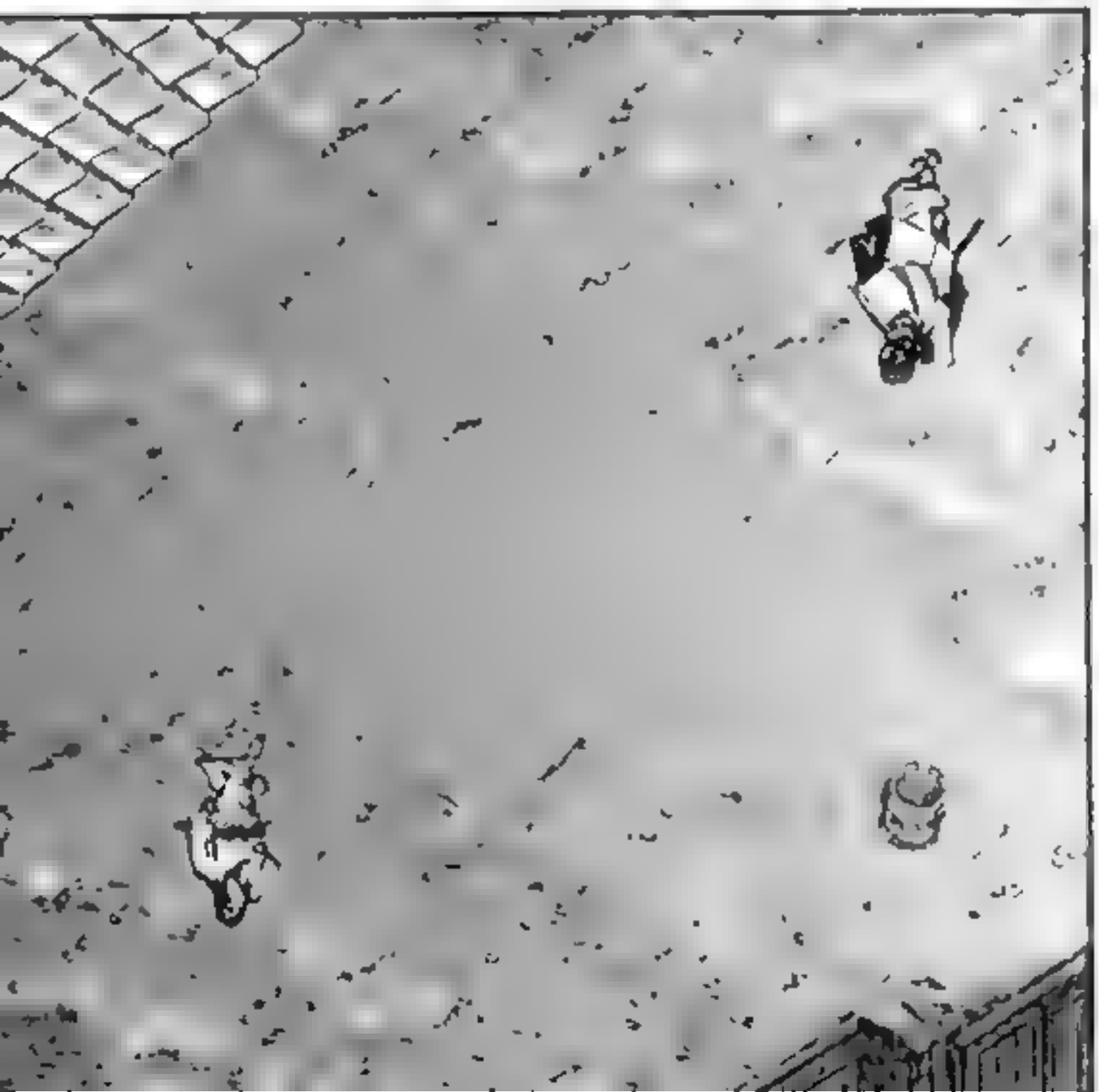
HAD COME
LOOSE ONCE
AGAIN.

SEIGEN WALKED FORWARD, WITHOUT EVEN A CANE TO SUPPORT HIMSELF.

IN HIS VERY STEPS, A MONSTROUS AND UNCANNY STRENGTH COULD BE SENSED.







MOVE.

IT WAS A SWORDSMAN KNOWN AS KATASHI SENSEI ON HIS WAY TO SUNFU TO SPEAK HIS SKILLS AT THE CAST HIS LORD

KAKEGAWA.

THE WOMAN WHO HAD DEVOTED HER HEART AND SOUL TO IRAKO SEIGEN,

IKU.

CHAPTER 37
SEALED ART

VENGEANCE FOR MY FATHER!

MI'E-DONO, IS IT?

AH...

A PITY MY EYES CANNOT SEE YOUR BEAUTY.

FUJIKI-SAMA.

HE SAID THIS TO ME.

A FEW DAYS AGO, AT HARAMIISHI-SAMA'S ESTATE,

HE IS AS SKILLED AS YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.

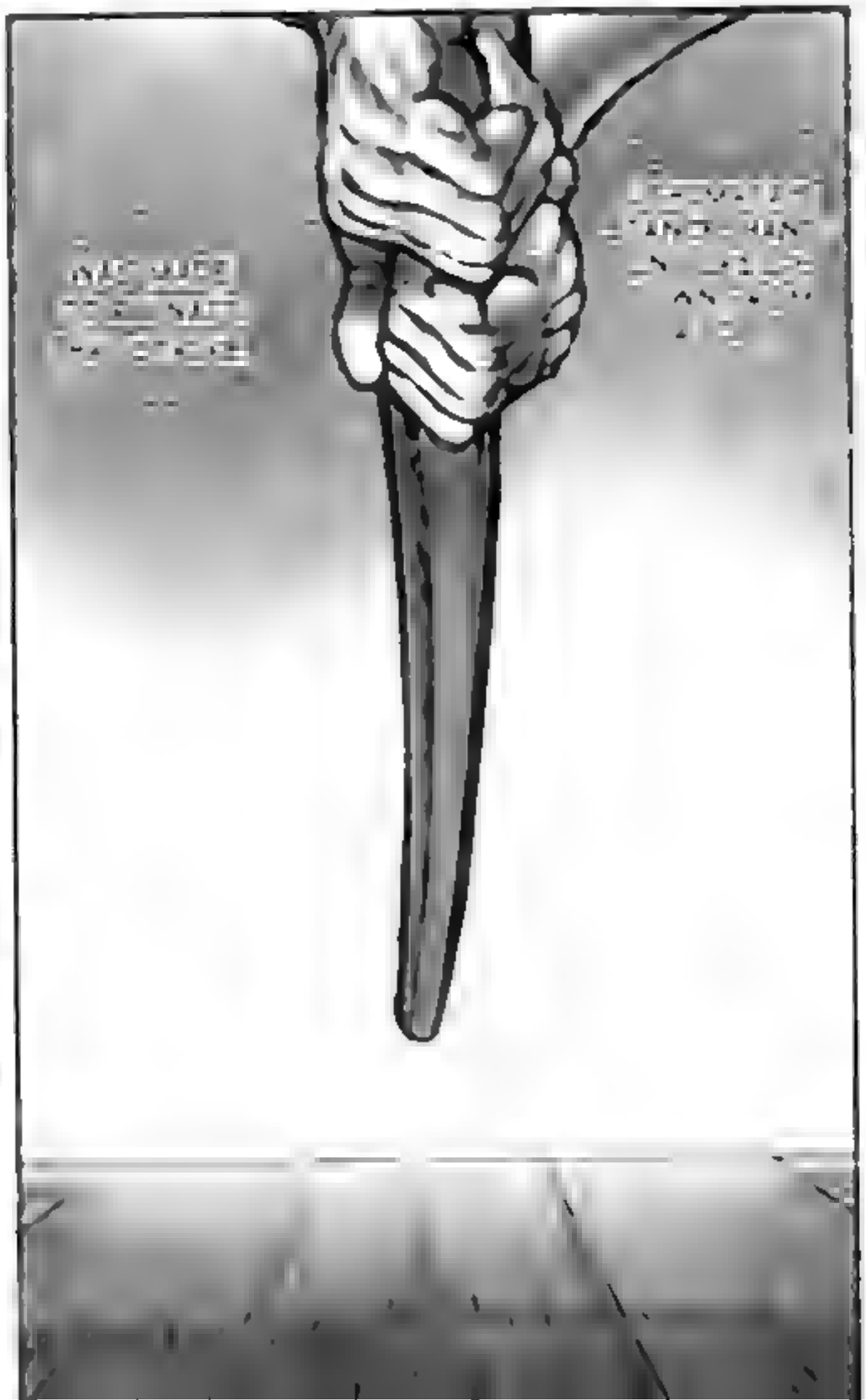
SOMEDAY, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS THE GREATEST HUSBAND AND WIFE OF KAKEGAWA.

HUSBAND AND WIFE

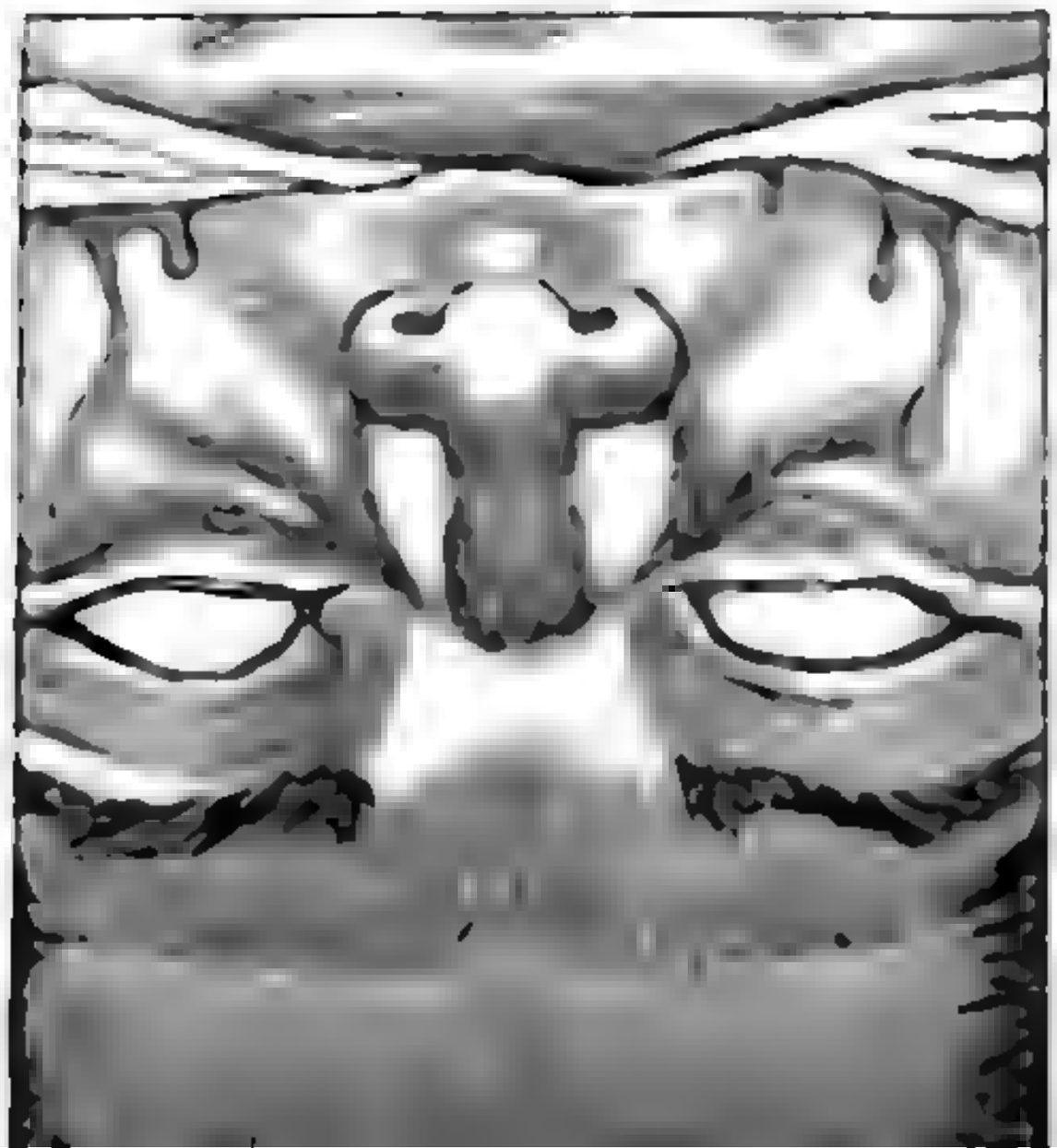
THOUGH GENNOSUKE NEVER LOST HIS CALM, THIS ONE TIME, HIS EYES FLASHED BRIGHTLY WITH EMOTION

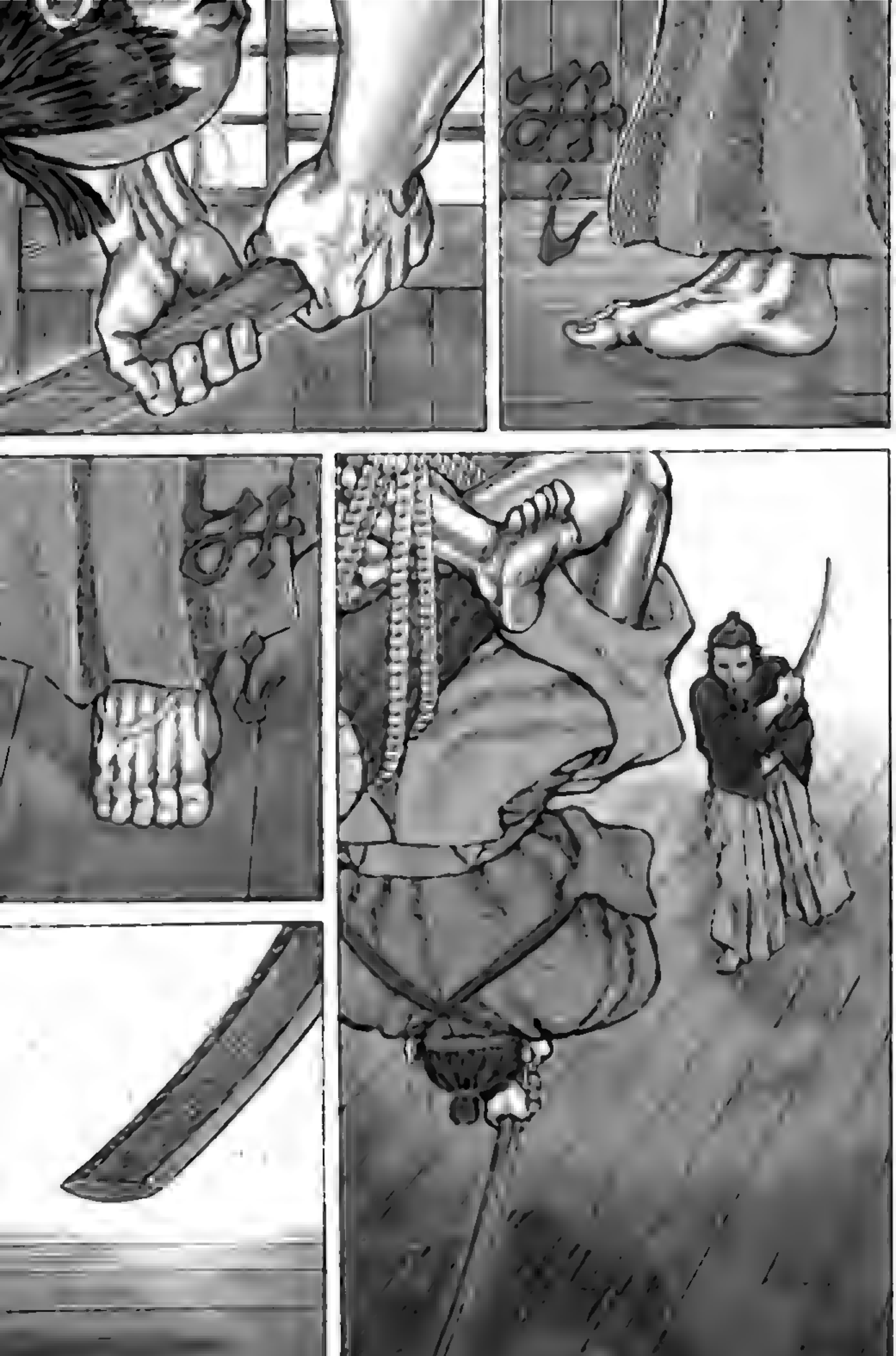
八幡大菩薩

天連而今



天下無双
命運





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WITH HIS WAKIZASHI HE CUT OFF THE ATTACK FROM BELOW.

AND WITH HIS DAITOU HE STRUCK WHERE SEIGEN'S NECK WOULD BE.

IN GENNOSUKE, WHO HAD GAINED MIE'S TRUST,

THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY WEAKNESS.

〝 SHIGURUI 〟Vol.7／END